

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR WINSTON, US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS COVERAGE: LAW OF THE SEA

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT CONCERNING LAW OF THE SEA FROM
BONN USIS CABLE ON PRESS ROUNDUP GERMAN NEWSPAPERS MARCH 28.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

-- DIE WELT (FRONT-PAGE REPORT FROM GENEVA): THE LAW OF
THE SEA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.
WHILE EARLIER CONFERENCES COPEd CHIEFLY WITH PROCEDURAL
PROBLEMS, THIS MEETING SHOULD END THE STATE OF LEGAL UN-
CERTAINTY CONCERNING THE SEAS. IT SHOULD ANSWER THE QUES-
TION OF WHO SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO EXPLOIT THE TREASURES
OF THE SEA TO WHOSE ADVANTAGE. THERE IS AGREEMENT IN PRIN-
CIPLE THAT POOR COUNTRIES SHOULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH EXPLOITA-
TION. DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY AN
INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY. COMPOSITION OF THAT AUTHORITY WILL
BE A MAJOR SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT THIS CONFERENCE. AT
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ISSUE ALSO IS THE SHARE POOR COUNTRIES SHOULD HAVE IN EX-
PLOITING THE TREASURES OF THE SEA AND THE ANNUAL RATE OF EX-
PLOITATION. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED
ON THESE ISSUES.

-- GENERAL-ANZEIGER (SATURDAY; BY WOLF J. BELL): THE OIL
CATASTROPHE OFF THE FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST IS A DRASTIC

DEMONSTRATION OF THE NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING NEW SEA LAWS.
HOWEVER, MARITIME ECOLOGY IS BUT ONE OF THE MANY PROBLEMS
TO BE SETTLED BY A COMPREHENSIVE SEA LAW CONVENTION. PROS-
PECTS OF ACHIEVING A BREAKTHROUGH AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE
ARE 50 : 50.

-- NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG (PRO-SPD): "...THE DREAM OF FREEDOM
OF THE SEAS IS OVER. THE SEAS ARE INDISPENSABLE ARTERIES
OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. THE UN IS IN DANGER OF LOSING
CONTROL OVER THE COURSE OF THE PERENNIAL DISCUSSION OF SEA-
BED EXPLOITATION... AN INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY AS
CALLED FOR BY THE THIRD WORLD WOULD SHIFT RATHER THAN
PREVENT STRUGGLING OVER EXPLOITATION RIGHTS. AGREEMENTS
ON EXPLOITING THE TREASURES OF THE SEAS ARE OVERDUE... IN
ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO RE-
STRICT THEIR CLAIMS. AS FAR AS SEA TRAFFIC IS CONCERNED,
SECURITY SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY OVER PROFIT. THERE SHOULD
BE CLOSED SEASONS FOR FISHING AND MODEST EXPLOITATION OF
SEABED DEPOSITS." END TEXT.

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